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MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

ORAL QUESTION 66-18(2): Family Violence Shelters Funding

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 25, 2016 regarding family violence shelters funding.

The Department does not have a formula for providing forced growth to shelters or other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Department provides funding to the Health and Social Services Authorities who enter into contribution agreements with NGOs to operate the shelters. Currently, Health and Social Services Authorities are asked to bring forward forced growth requirements as part of the budgeting process. However, the budgeting process requires a well substantiated business case that meets the forced growth criteria established by the Financial Management Board, and often shelters or Authorities are not able to substantiate the business case sufficiently.

We have looked at various ways to address inflationary increases in shelter costs. This will be easier when we move to the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority and have a coordinated, consolidated budgeting process.

As I committed in the House, I'm happy to work to determine the scope and nature of how we can work to improve the process of providing funding to shelters once we move to a single Territorial Authority.

Thank you.

Glen Abernethy,
Minister of Health and Social Services

c. Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive